AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) System for lifting and lowering an object, comprising a group of at least two mobile lifting columns, each lifting column comprising:

a displaceable frame with a standing mast part;

a carrier displaceable along the mast part for engaging the object to be lifted;

a drive for moving the carrier along the mast part;

a control for controlling at least the drive; and

communication means for communicating with at least other lifting columns in the group via a transmission or broadcast path,

wherein selection of at least one of the lifting columns of the group is based on master-slave principles wherein selection of any column as a first lifting column for a first sub-group is, as a result of the first selection a first master lifting column, the first selected column configured to actuate selectively operable selection means for any of the remaining column or columns from the group to be included in the first sub-group, the selection of any remaining column or columns being a slave column or columns ~~at least one of the lifting columns in the group includes selectively user operable selection means for, when actuated, selecting any of the lifting columns from the group for a first sub-group, and wherein communications in the system are, at least during selection of said at least one lifting column for the first sub-group, based on master-slave principles wherein a selected lifting column, being the first selected column for the first sub-group, is as a result of first selection thereof a first master~~

~~lifting column to control the remaining lifting column or columns in the first sub-group as a slave column or columns~~, wherein the selection means of a slave column is adapted to read and adopt an identification, upon selection to the first sub-group, for the purpose of selecting the slave column in the first sub-group associated with the first master column, and for thereafter addressing the slave column in the process of lifting the object, wherein the identification is readable from an identification component associated with the first master column,

wherein the system is configured to allow for the selection of an additional master column or columns, and an additional slave column or columns, to form a plurality of additional sub-groups with remaining columns that were not assigned to the first sub-group.

2. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 1, wherein at least one slave column, being a slave column during at least selection, comprises operating means for combined actuation of the lifting columns in the first sub-group of selected lifting columns in operation during lifting of the object.

3. (Previously Presented) System according to claim 2, wherein the communication means are of a wireless type for controlling the lifting column.

4. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the selection means of the first master column are adapted to transmit a delete signal, at the beginning of the selection process, to at least one other lifting column or to at least one lifting column selected at an earlier stage with the relevant master column in a sub-group, in order to cancel the previous selection thereof.

5. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 4, wherein the selection means of the first master column gives to a user an indication of each lifting column available for selection in the first sub-group, and comprise associated selectors for selecting lifting columns for the first sub-group to be selected as slave columns.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identification component is a tangible identification card.

8. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 1, wherein the identification includes at least one of a designation of the first master column, an identification of the identification component, a random number generated for instance by the first master column, and a date and time designation generated by the system.

9. (Currently Amended) Method of selecting at least one lifting column in a system for lifting and lowering an object, the system comprising a group of at least two mobile lifting columns, each lifting column comprising: a displaceable frame with a standing mast part; a carrier displaceable along the mast part for engaging the object to be lifted; a drive for moving the carrier along the mast part; a control for controlling at least the drive; and communication means communicating with at least other lifting columns in the group via a transmission or broadcast path, the method comprising:

selecting at least one of the lifting columns in the group for a first sub-group; and

communicating between selected columns~~, at least during selection of said lifting column for the first sub-group~~ on the basis of master-slave principles, wherein a first lifting column is initially selected as a first master lifting column for the first sub-group, wherein a selection of ~~a~~ any remaining column includes reading and adopting an identification, upon selection to the first sub-group, for the purpose of selecting the any remaining column as a slave column in the first sub-group associated with the first master column, and for thereafter addressing the slave column in the process of lifting the object, wherein reading the identification is performed from an identification component associated with the first master column

selecting an additional master column or columns, and an additional slave column or columns, to form a plurality of additional sub-groups with remaining columns that were not assigned to the first sub-group.

10. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 2, wherein the selection means of the first master column are adapted to transmit a delete signal, at the beginning of the selection process, to at least one other lifting column or to at least one lifting column selected at an earlier stage with the relevant master column in a sub-group, in order to cancel the previous selection thereof.

11. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 3, wherein the selection means of the first master column are adapted to transmit a delete signal, at the beginning of the selection process, to at least one other lifting column or to at least

one lifting column selected at an earlier stage with the relevant master column in a sub-group, in order to cancel the previous selection thereof.

12. (Previously Presented) System as claimed in claim 7, wherein the identification is a designation of the first master column, an identification of the identification card, a random number generated for instance by the first master column or a date and time designation generated by the system.

13. (Previously Presented) Method of claim 9, wherein the identification component is an identification card.

14. (Previously Presented) Method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the identification includes at least one of a designation of the first master column, an identification of the identification component, a random number generated for instance by the first master column, and a date and time designation generated by the system.